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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/597,236	06/20/2000	Akihiko Yagasaki	37174:164287	5862
26694	7590	04/23/2004	EXAMINER	
VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD AND CIVILETTI, LLP P.O. BOX 34385 WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998			NGUYEN, TUYEN T	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2832

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/597,236	YAGASAKI, AKIHIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TUYEN T NGUYEN	2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 18-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 18-27 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 11/07/03, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. The office action is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 27, applicant should clarify what is intended by “short-circuit *ring*”. Applicant should clarify the structure/arrangement of the “ring” structure relative to the copper wire.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLoughlin [US 4,484,171] in view of Harada [US 4,518,941].

McLoughlin discloses an isolation transformer [see figure 7a] comprising:

- a multi-layer, multi-winding primary coil [24] fabricated by stacking coil layers formed by an insulated covered conductor;
- a multi-layer, multi-winding secondary coil [26] fabricated by stacking coil layers formed by an insulated covered conductor;
- a core structure [58]; and
- a conductive short-circuit means [28] disposed the primary and secondary coils.

McLoughlin discloses the instant claimed invention except for the short-circuit means being made of a thin conductive film sandwiched between the coil layers.

Harada discloses a transformer comprising thin conductive foil shielding means [8, 8', 9, 9'] disposed between a plurality of coil layers [3, 3', 4].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the shielding means arrangement in McLoughlin for the purpose of providing equipotential between the windings.

Regarding claims 19-20, 22-23 and 25-26, Harada discloses the conducting layer sandwiched between each or selected coil layers.

Regarding claims 21 and 24, the particular design of the primary and secondary windings would have been an obvious design consideration based on the intended application.

Claim 27, as best understood in view of the rejection under 35 USC 112 second paragraph, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarpa [US 2,817,066] in view of Harada.

Scarpa discloses a transformer [figure 5] comprising:

- primary and second coils [A and B] formed of a plurality of conductors [2, 3] covered with insulating layer [2', 3'];
- a core structure [C]; and
- at least one "*short-circuit ring*" [2", 3"] formed of a conductive material disposed on the insulating layer.

Scarpa discloses the instant claimed invention except for the conductive "*short-circuit ring*" being a thin conducting film.

Harada discloses a transformer comprising thin conductive foil shielding means [8, 8', 9, 9'] disposed between a plurality of coil layers [3, 3', 4].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the thin conductive foil design of Harada for the conductive "*short-circuit ring*" of Scarpa for the purpose of reducing the size of the device.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUYEN T NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-1996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:30.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTN *TTN*

Tuyen Nguyen